

## CLAIMS

1. A portable device comprising  
control means for controlling the operation of the device;  
tone means that are controlled by the control means and that produce sound electroacoustically;  
which control means are arranged to give feedback on the operation of the device by using a tone produced by the tone means; and  
determining means for determining the volume of background noise of the usage environment of the device, on the basis of which background noise volume the control means are arranged to automatically adjust at least one tone feature that can be sensed by hearing, such that the tone is distinguished from background noise by a human hearing sense.
2. A portable device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tone feature is tone frequency.
3. A portable device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the determining means are arranged to determine the volume of background noise at different frequencies, and the control means are arranged to produce a tone particularly at such frequencies where the volume of background noise is low.
4. A portable device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tone feature is tone volume.
5. A portable device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the control means are arranged to produce a tone that is louder than background noise.
6. A portable device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tone feature is the moment of time at which the tone is produced.
7. A portable device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the determining means are arranged to determine the moment at which a sudden background noise of short duration occurs, and the control means are arranged to produce a tone nonsimultaneously with the moment at which background noise occurs.
8. A portable device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tone feature is tone duration.
9. A portable device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the control means are arranged to form a tone from notes and to make the individual notes sound longer when background noise is getting louder.
10. A portable device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the determining means comprise conversion means for performing an acousto-electric

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109290-9026860





receiving a control relating to at least one of the tone features that can be sensed by hearing and controlling the tone production carried out by the user interface of the portable device.

31. A method as claimed in claim 30, further comprising:

5 selecting those tone frequency ranges by means of the control to which the tone can be adjusted automatically.

32. A method as claimed in claim 30, further comprising:

selecting those tone durations by the control that can be adjusted automatically for the tone.

10 33. A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the portable device is a subscriber terminal of a telecommunication system.

34. A method of providing a user with information on the operation of a portable device, the method comprising:

15 detecting an event that interests the user and concerns the operation of the device;

receiving a control affecting a tone frequency and/or duration and controlling the tone production from a user interface of the device;

adjusting the tone frequency and/or duration according to the control;

20 giving feedback on the operation of the device by using the tone.

35. A method as claimed in claim 34, wherein the portable device is a subscriber terminal of a telecommunication system.